

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Solomon on July 25, 2006.

In the specification, page 1, at the end of the first paragraph, -- S.N. 09/486,823 is a national stage application under 35 U.S.C 371 of PCT/JP98/03980, filed September 4, 1998. -- is inserted.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Phyllis G. Spivack whose telephone number is 571-272-0585. The Examiner can normally be reached on 10:30 AM-7 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful after one business day, the Examiner's supervisor, Ardin Marschel can be reached on 591-272-0718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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July 25, 2006

Phyllis G. Spivack